

Abiding Savior News



United in Christ. Welcoming All.

February 2011

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 801 Charlotte Highway, Fairview, NC

Rev. David W. Eck, pastor Office: 298-2608 Cell: 505-5229

E-mail: abidingsaviorlc@aol.com Web Site: www.abidingsaviorlutheranchurch.org

Pastor's Column

"It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, but if there's no one to help, tough!

Two in a bed warm each other. Alone, you shiver all night. By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped. [*Ecc 4:9-12, The Message*]

When I need a reality check, Ecclesiastes is one of the first places I turn to in the Bible. It is one of four books that are known as "wisdom literature" which also includes The Psalms, Proverbs and Job.

In the verses above, this book of wisdom tells us something we should instinctively know: we are much stronger together than we are apart. This applies to us as individuals as well as a church.

As individuals we are reminded that we cannot survive the challenges life throws at us without any outside support. We'd like to think we're strong and independent. But truth be told we all need support from others in both good times and in bad. Our family and friends are there to encourage us and cheer us on when we cannot be our own cheerleaders. They are

there to give us wisdom and perspective when the way forward is not clear.

The same is true, of course, for the church. This past year I have enjoyed working with the RIC Taskforce as well as the Church Council. Both of these teams work extremely well together. We definitely have our difference of opinion, but we listen carefully to each other and our collective wisdom is much stronger than our individual wisdom.

This past week I saw this same dynamic at work in our brainstorming session on outreach and evangelism that was held during the Sunday School hour. Our president, Mark Barrett, did an outstanding job of getting our ideas on paper and making sure that everyone's voice was heard. The info we collected will be e-mailed to all of you and you are then invited to add your comments and suggestions to make our work even stronger.

Then the Church Council will take all of our collected wisdom and develop a concrete plan that will help us move forward in mission and ministry. 2012 is an exciting year for our church. We are almost to the end of our RIC process. The work we have done there, combined with the wisdom we are seeking for all of you, will serve us well as we look for ways to increase our presence [*cont.*]

[con't from front page] and tell our story in the community at large.

My hope and prayer is that we will continue to work together in this wonderfully collaborative way. We need each other's prayers, wisdom and love if we are going to be successful as a congregation. We need to encourage one another and, together, discern the new directions and ministry opportunities the Holy Spirit is calling us to undertake.

I consider it a great privilege to be your pastor. It is a joy to work with you, side by side, as we seek to be Christ's loving presence in our church and in our community. We are ready to embark on a new chapter in the life of our congregation. Where it will lead us no one knows for us except God. But I do know that, together, we will journey to the places God intends us to be as individuals, families and as a congregation.

Blessings, Pastor Dave

Financial Secretary's Report

	December 2011
General Fund Giving:	7,880.50
Mortgage Giving:	<u>1,216.00</u>
Total	\$9,096.50
Monthly Budget Needed	\$ 9,044.00
Difference	\$52.50

The month of December took in \$1,100.00 for Heat pump plus a gift for the piano repairs of \$2,000. These designated amounts were not listed in the above figures.

Toni Corkran, Financial Secretary
January 16, 2011

Heat Pump Update

As of December 31st we have paid off \$13,492 of the \$16,456 we spent on replacing two of our heat pumps. That means we have only \$2,964 to go! FYI: We spent \$7,917.15 in 2010 for heating and cooling. With the new, more efficient, heat pumps installed we spent only \$5,855.33 in 2011! That is a savings of \$2,061.82 over the span of a year.

Make ASLC's Web Site Your Home Page

If you're looking for an easy way to help our church, please consider making our church's web site your default home page on your browser. You can do this through the "preferences" on whatever browser you are using. The reason for doing so is that every time our web site gets a "hit" it increases how high we end up in search engines such as Google and Yahoo. The higher we place, the easier it will be for others to find us. If you have any questions about this, please contact Pastor Dave or ask your favorite computer geek to help you!

Lent 2012: We Are the Body of Christ

This Lent our scripture focus will be 1 Cor. 12:27 which reminds us "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." Each Wednesday night we will have a time of fellowship with a Soup Supper at 6:00pm followed by worship at 7:00pm. We will use Holden Evening Prayer for these services. Here is a look at the beginning of this year's schedule:

Ash Wednesday - Feb 22, Receiving of Ashes & Holy Communion, 7pm

Wed, Feb 29 - "The Eyes of Christ," Soup Supper, 6pm Worship, 7pm

Wed, Mar 7 - "The Hands of Christ," Soup Supper, 6pm Worship, 7pm



Pastor Dave on Vacation

Pastor Dave is finishing up his vacation from Feb 1-6th. Any pastoral emergencies during this time should be directed to Rev Cindy Coleman, Cell 989-1023, Home 633-0743. Pastor Dave will be back on US soil sometime on Sunday, Feb 5th so you can reach him on his cell phone that evening 505-5229. He will be back in the office on Tuesday, Jan 7th.

RIC Taskforce

The RIC Taskforce will meet on Tuesday, Feb 7, 7:00pm. The purpose of this meeting is to write a Mission Statement to go along with the Welcome Statement we wrote in November. Bring your best ideas and let's see what the Holy Spirit has in mind!

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group will meet on Sunday afternoon, Feb 19, 3:00pm. This time it is open to the community at large. No matter what loss you are dealing with in your life right now, you will find support and prayers with this intimate group. The meeting will include a time of worship, sharing and envisioning what this group will look like in the future.

Lenten Devotional Booklets

The narthex contains a number of Lenten devotional booklets that can be used throughout the season. Please take the time to browse through the collection and select one that fits you best.



Lenten Soup Suppers

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex to help provide food for our Lenten Soup Suppers. We are also looking for someone to co-ordinate the meal for each Wednesday night. As a co-ordinator you don't have to provide all the food, you simply have to make sure all the spots are filled for your night and, if not, call others to help complete the meal for the evening. Thanks to everyone in advance for help.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Our Ash Wednesday worship will be on Feb 22nd, 7:00pm. The service will feature a modified version of Holden Evening Prayer, the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. We hope you'll be able to join us for this powerful worship experience.

Game Day

Join us for a time of fun, food and fellowship on Sun, Feb 12, 12:15pm. Game Day will feature lunch plus a selection of board games for your enjoyment. This is a nice way to beat the winter blahs.

Memorial Gifts: A Note From Council

The Church Council, at its January 19 meeting, voted to devote all undesignated memorial gifts to the general fund. Formerly, such gifts were directed to the mortgage fund. However, since the mortgage fund is now included in the general fund, it made sense to treat memorials the same way. Designated memorials, those for some particular facet of the congregational program, are certainly welcome and will be used as requested.

Christmas Cards for 2012?

The photo to the left of this column is one Pastor Dave took during the holiday season. Is anybody interested in having Christmas Cards printed for 2012? We could do it in-house if only a small number of people are interested. Let Pastor Dave know if you'd like some and how many. We would sell them this coming fall.

Birthdays

Sue Boeger 03
 Jennifer Ownbey 16
 Caitlyn Blayney 17
 Beth DeLap 21

Anniversaries

Bob & Darlene Stevens 2/6/1974

Prayer List

In addition to ASLC members on our prayer list, we are praying for the following family and friends: Tammy Epley – Nancy Albright’s daughter, Kim Hoffman – Linda Hoffman’s niece, Capt. Robert Thornhill - son of Shelia & Marge who is stationed in Afghanistan, Keith Lee - Susan Bolick's Dad, Brent Rivers - friend of the congregation, Buddy Lou Downs - friend of Irene Sayers, Jim Hutchinson, friend of Jennifer Ownbey, the family of Linda Slider, friend of Harold Sweitzer.

Change of Address

Fred Conrad, A-4
 Claremont Nursing Care Center
 934 State Rt. 28
 Milford, OH 45150

Worship Q&A

Q: What is the significance of the dove on our altar with the lighted candle in it?

A: The dove is symbolic of two things: First, it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit whose light shines brightly in our lives. Second, it is a universal symbol for peace. Every time we look at it while we're in worship, it is supposed to be a visual reminder for us to pray for peace in the world, our community, our church and in our lives.

Women's Day Retreat

There will be a One Day Retreat for Lutheran Women on Saturday, Feb 18, 9:30am-3pm. Cost for this retreat is \$8.00 which includes materials, snack and a lunch. The theme of the retreat is "The Three R's...Renew, Respond, Rejoice!" Please contact Doris Wright ASAP if you're interested in attending. Location TBA.

Coffee Host	George Hellyer	5	George Hellyer	12	Jennifer Ownbey	19	Lynn Barrett	26
Altar Care	Sue Boeger	12	Toni Corkran	19	Toni Corkran	26	Lynn Barrett	26
Tabulate	Corkrans	12	Wrights	19	Sayers/Hebb	26	HoffmanColeman	26
Usher		12	Jim Long	19	Jim Long	26		26
Usher		12	Ray Wright	19	Ray Wright	26	Toni Corkran	26
Worship Asst	John Corkran	12	Lawson Hebb	19	Harold Sweitzer	26	Jennifer Ownbey	26
Reader	John Corkran	12	Lawson Hebb	19	Harold Sweitzer	26	Jennifer Ownbey	26
Greeter	George Hellyer	12	Sue Boeger	19	Linda Butera	26	Toni Corkran	26